# Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Bureau of Warden Service



2010 Whitewater Outfitter Safety and Passenger Count Report

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# Whitewater Outfitter Safety Report Summary

As defined in Title 12, section 12910-4A; each commercial whitewater outfitter must submit a written report of any accident occurring in connection with a whitewater trip conducted by that outfitter resulting in the death of a person; a person losing consciousness or receiving professional medical treatment, a person becoming disabled for more than 24 hours, a person's disappearance from a whitewater craft under circumstances indicating death or injury or damage to the whitewater craft or other property of more than \$1,000.

The information in this outfitter safety report is a consolidation of the information provided by whitewater outfitters in the Rafting Accident Report submitted to the department during the 2010 rafting season.

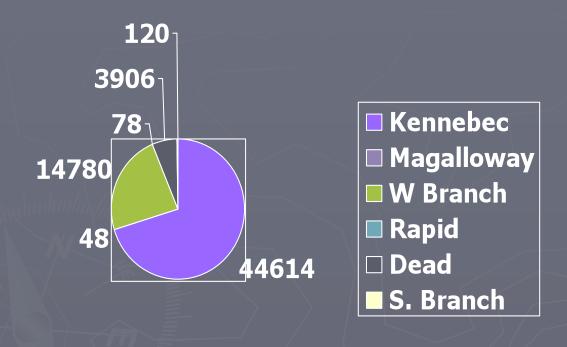
Reports indicate the following about commercial rafting accidents:

The greatest number of accidents are in rapids or areas where outfitters spend a greater amount of time entertaining passengers. Outfitters that annually carry a larger volume of passengers typically report a larger number of accidents.

During the 2010 rafting season, the whitewater industry carried approximately 62,999 raft passengers and reported 26 reportable commercial rafting accidents. 792 multiple trip passengers were carried on the West Branch of the Penobscot River. \*Multiple trip is defined as any whitewater trip, other than the first trip of the calendar day over the same section of rapidly flowing river by the same commercial passenger.

Whitewater outfitters reported 2 other accidents, which did not meet the state's requirement for reportable accident (Title 12, Section 12910-4A) and are not included in this report.

## TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL RAFT PASSENGERS AND ACCIDENTS PER RIVER



### **Dead River**

Total Passengers: 3,948
Total Reported Accidents: 1

### **Kennebec River**

Total Passengers: 44,761 Total Reported Accidents: 12

### **Magalloway River**

Total Passengers: 48
Total Reported Accidents: 0

### **Rapid River**

Total Passengers: 78
Total Reported Accidents: 0

## West Branch Penobscot River

Total Passengers: 14,780
Total Reported Accidents: 15

### **South Branch Penobscot River**

Total Passengers: 120
Total Reported Accidents: 0

Outfitter	Dead River	Kennebec River	Magalloway River	Rapid River	West Branch Penobscot	Total Passengers Carried	Total Reported Accidents
Adventure Outdoors	41	0	0	0	0	41	0
Adventure River Expeditions	128	0	0	0	0	128	0
Crabapple Whitewater	509	6,296 2 Accidents	0	0	0	6,805	2
Downeast Rafting	143	3,832	0	0	0	3,975	0
Dead River Expeditions	0	181	0	0	0	181	0
Magic Rivers Rafting	0	711	0	0	0	711	0

Outfitter	Dead River	Kenneb ec River	Magalloway River	Rapid River	West Branch Penobscot	Total Passengers Carried	Total Reported Accident
Magic Falls Rafting	421	5,674 1 Accident	0	0	0	6,095	1
Maine Whitewater	165	344	0	0	0	509	0
Moxie Outdoor Adventures	217	3,532 1 Accident	0	0	644 1 Accident	4,393	2
New England Outdoor Center	0	72	0	O	4,226 2 Accidents	4,298	2
North American Whitewater	0	32	0	0	0	32	0
North Country Rivers	656	5,862 1 Accident	0	0	2,918 3 Accidents	9,436	4

Outfitte	r Dead River	Kenneb ec River	Magallowa Y River	Rapi d Rive r	South Branch Penobscot River	West Branch Penobscot River	Total Passenge rs Carried	Total Reporte d Acciden ts
Northea Guide Service		814	0 /	0	120	129	1,063	0
Norther Outdoo		7,747 2 Accidents	0	0	0	2,259 3 Accidents	10,772	5
Enriche Learnin Center	g	0	48	78	0	0	126	0
Penobsc Adventu s		30	0	0	0	1,581 1 Accident	1,611	1
Professional River Runner		931	0	0	0	17	988	0

Outfitter	Dead River	Kennebec River	Magallow ay River	Rapid River	West Branch Penobscot	Total Passengers Carried	Total Reported Accidents
River Drivers	189	900	0	0	31	1,120	0
Three Rivers Whitewater	573 1 Accident	4,131 5 Accidents	0 \	0	2,866 5 Accidents	7,570	11
Unicorn Rafting Expeditions	75	225	0	0	248	548	0
U.S. Rafting	0	706	0	0	0	706	0
Windfall	166	2,533	0	0	0	<b>-2,699</b> /	0

River:	Dead River	Kennebec River	Magalloway River	Rapid River	West Branch Penobscot
Total 2006 Accidents (20)	_1	12	0	0	7
Total 2006 Passengers (67,984)	6,186	47,818	0	0	13,980
Total 2007 Accidents (24)	2	8	0	0	14
Total 2007 Passengers (69,297)	6,851	48,075	0	0	14,371

River:	Dead River	Kennebec River	Magalloway River	Rapid River	West Branch Penobscot
Total 2008 Passengers (66,452)	7,328	45,013	0	0	14,111
Total 2008 Accidents (33)	1	10	0	0	22
Total 2009 Accidents (19)	2	5	0	0	12
Total 2009 Passengers (61,377)	5,336	42,687	0	0	13,324

# 2010 ACCIDENTS ON EACH RIVER IN RELATION TO FLOW RATES IN CUBIC FEET PER SECOND (CFM)

### **Number of Reportable Accidents**

- Dead River, 1
- > Kennebec River, 11
- Magalloway River, 0
- Rapid River, 0
- South Branch Penobscot River, 0
- > West Branch Penobscot River, 14

### Accidents CFS Levels

#### Dead River:

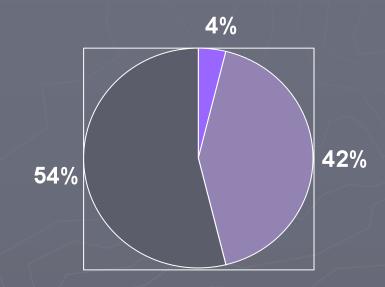
> 1@5500

#### Kennebec River:

<del>7</del> 7@5000, 1@8300, 3@8000

#### West Branch Penobscot River:

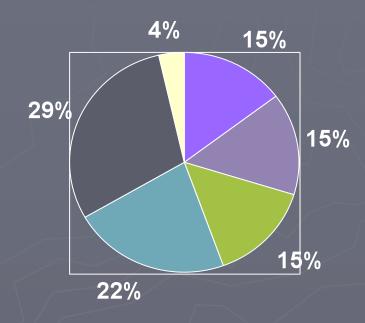
> 3@2300, 3@3100, 7@3200, 1@3300,





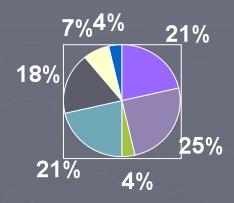
### DIRECT CAUSE OF INJURY TO COMMERCIAL PASSENGERS

- NOTE: Could Be Multiple Causes per passenger
- ▶ Falls Overboard, 4
- ▶ Fall In Boat, 4
- Collision With Passenger, 4
- Collision With Paddle, 6
- Capsize, 1
- Other Causes, 8
   Collided With Rock,
   Pulled Muscle In Boat
   Fixed Object Struck in Boat
   Existing Medical Condition





### INJURIES TO COMMERCIAL RAFT PASSENGERS



- **■** Fractures
- □ Puncture/Laceration
- **■** Bruise/Contusion
- Dislocation
- ☐ Strain/Sprains
- **■** Other Injuries
- **Muscle Tear**

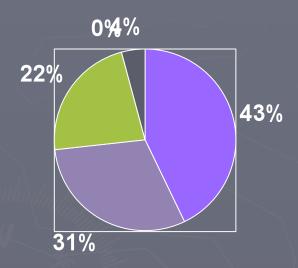
### Note:

## Possible multiple injuries reported per passenger

- > Fractures, 6
- > Puncture/Laceration, 7
- Bruise/contusion, 1
- Dislocation, 6
- > Strain/Sprains, 5
- > Muscle Tear, 1
- > Other Injuries, 2

Includes: Concussion,
Abrasions, Etc.

## MEDICAL TREATMENT GIVEN TO COMMERCIAL PASSENGERS



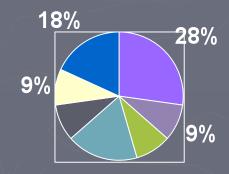
■ On Site First Aid
 ■ Follow-up Treatment by Physician Recommended
 ■ Emergency Room Treatment and Released
 ■ Ambulance Care
 □ Emergency Room Treatment and Admitted

- □ On Site First Aid, 21
- Follow-up Treatment by a Physician Recommended, 15
- □ Emergency Room Treatment and Released, 11
- Emergency Room Treatment and Admitted, 2
- □ Ambulance Care, 0

# LOCATIONS ON THE DEAD RIVER WHERE ACCIDENT OCCURRED

Poplar Hill Falls at 5500 Cubic Feet Per Second

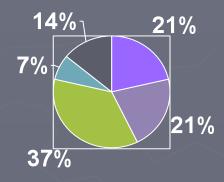
## LOCATIONS ON THE KENNEBEC RIVER WHERE THE ACCIDENTS OCCURRED



Magic Falls
 Black Brook Rapid
 Carry Brook
 Rock Garden

- > Magic Falls, 3
- Black Brook Rapid, 1
- > Dead Stream Rapid, 1
- > Swimmer's Rapid, 2
- > Lower Alleyway, 1
- > Carry Brook, 1
- > Rock Garden, 2

# LOCATIONS ON THE WEST BRANCH OF THE PENOBSCOT RIVER WHERE THE ACCIDENTS OCCURRED



- Cribworks
- Ripogenous Gorge
- Nesowadnehunk Falls
- Exterminator Rapid
- ☐ Big Amberjack Falls

- > Cribworks, 3
- > Ripogenous Gorge, 3
- Nesowadnehunk Falls, 5
- > Exterminator Rapid, 1
- Big Amberjack Falls, 2